

**UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT**

**AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS**

**30 Sherman Street, West Hartford, CT 06110**

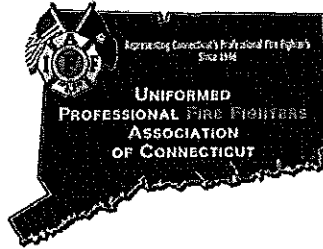
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**PAUL J. RAPANAULT**

**DIRECTOR**

**Legislative/Political Affairs**

March 5, 2013

**Labor and Public Employees Committee Public Hearing**

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Paul Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislation/Political Affairs of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters of Connecticut. The UPFFA represents 4,000 career fire fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and dispatchers in nearly 60 municipal and state local unions.

We **SUPPORT S.B. No. 1033 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**. This bill provides for an increase of a spousal survivorship benefit when the pension owner dies after either (1) completion of the age and service requirements for retirement or (2) completion of twenty-five years of vesting service provided they have been lawfully married for at least the twelve months preceding his/her death. The surviving spouse shall receive a lifetime income in an amount equal to one hundred per cent of the retirement income that the member would have been entitled to if he/she had retired the day he/she died. The percentage is increased from fifty to one hundred percent. This benefit is earned by the beneficiary and should be paid to the survivor in the event of death.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Paul J Rapanault, Legislative/Political Affairs**

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